

AVIATION

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SPECIAL FEATURES

THE AIR MAIL IN ALASKA
BARNSTORMING AND MAKING MONEY
MODERN AIRCRAFT BOMBS AND THEIR USE
FOREIGN ENTRIES FOR SCHNEIDER CUP RACE

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PUBLISHER'S NEWS LETTER

Our running comment on the present state of the aeronautical industry has brought many interesting and light. One aircraft manufacturer writes:

"At this writing our factory is virtually closed down. We are manufacturing some spare parts. This work will be completed May 1. Our working force at present is about 25 per cent of normal capacity."

"We are hoping that the immediate future has more in store for the aircraft industry. Its present status is not conducive to the investment of capital and the morale of the skilled workmen in the industry is broken because of instability of employment. We have built up two efficient and efficient factory organizations in the past year only to have them broken up each time because of lack of work. If the present economic conditions responsible for such conditions are not corrected, the aircraft manufacturers cannot be depended upon to maintain even a shadow of an organization that would function effectively in the event of a national emergency."

The Joint Committee of the House on Military and Naval Affairs has been keeping both the Army and Navy Air Services busy with its investigation of the duplication of functions, equipment and activities. As this has not been given much publicity, AVIATION has arranged to publish the high lights that have been brought out. For a week or so every important officer has been devoting most of his time to this important hearing.

And then, of course, great preparations are being made for the hearings of the House Committee that is investigating all the aircraft activities of the government. It is generally supposed that the committee will hear the complaints from dissatisfied inventors. First, they go into the cross-examining agreement, and finally take up the important problem of a Separate Air Force. Everyone welcomes this investigation, as it will, it is hoped, end and for all time to the surface the class, and the motives behind them, that have been beneath the curtain of aeronautical progress. But the state of things in Washington does not make for progress while it is prevailing. It is hoped that eventually good will come from it—something that will be constructive, and mainly a continuing national aviation policy.

AVIATION has been having a little investigation of its own into the published activities of the Air Service. We are pleased to note that the Air Mail Service has several all connections with the separate U. S. Air Service. The state of the latter—perhaps, so that our readers may know, it is possible to publish such bumpy aviation papers while AVIATION has to appear as modestly as ever and editorial matter. It is an interesting story.

Visiting Washington at the time gives a very discouraging impression. Everyone seems to be living in the past, delving into records to justify their position and preparing for investigation after investigation. The Daugherty Committee has been delving into aircraft in a way that has given the newspaper first page copy almost daily. And these are always labeled "Arrest" records. It is only fair to point out that in practically every case the complaint is made against companies that either were or are automobile manufacturers. Also, the complainants seem to be in the same general categories that came into the aeronautical field when the country went to war. The Standard Aero Corporation comes in as an example, and this firm was financed by Japanese capital, and caused suspicion after the War, that civilians can hardly be ready against the present industry. Occasionally you are asked why we do not print more of these "scandals." The truth is that we neither have the space nor the inclination to do so. Devoid of follow-up editorial changes so fast that even

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AVIATION

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The National Aeronautic Association

LAST week when blessed Coffin, then president of The National Aeronautic Association, returned from a trip west he found a resolution at Headquarters on Washington that called for an immediate curtailment of expenditures. The letter were then running at the rate of \$28,000 a month. Coffin recommended that this time very suddenly the rates of the N.A.A. be cut down to \$10,000 a month, knowing that it would be corrected when Mr. Coffin could investigate. This was done, and the officers of the N.A.A. went to St. Louis with the best of intentions to make over such an elaborate program would be turned into a success. The members were assured of these—first, that the budget as prepared by the treasurer, Colonel Caudle, would be the limit of expenditures; second, that a general manager would be employed; and third, that a more sound and conservative policy would be inaugurated.

Next week Frederick B. Patterson, new president of the N.A.A., returns from Europe and will find a condition which is nearly the opposite of that last year. Visitors to headquarters note none of the activity expected from a national organization. The Corcoran Gymnasium, though empty, was far beyond the scope of the P.A.T. meeting, is functioning excellently under the able direction of Colonel Lethbridge, however, another one the judges figures, is spacious and fit at St. Louis. In fact, the first action taken was to increase the will of the association in this respect. Mr. Patterson agreed to assume personally, in connection with the National Cash Register Company, the entire expense of the shipper campaign, which has been so successfully handled by General Fahey. Whether or not the general office would be moved to the idea of the members is unimportant, as it was always the only way that a large membership could be obtained.

As far as the expected General Manager is concerned nothing has materialized. The National Cash Register Company "Stand" its Publishers, Deseret in art as the personal representative of Mr. Patterson in Washington. This official should resign next month for reasons that have nothing to do with association.

As for a minimum or maximum policy, there has been no resolution. Many letters have been received by AVIATION asking what the N.A.A. stands for. The only definite answer that could be given was the Winslow Bill, which seems to be undergoing short treatment.

Now we say that the officers and governors are back to the budget, that a general manager is needed and a national to be formed. Last year's activity was too ambitious, the time it had entirely centered on the membership campaign. It is too late to make the organization a real factor in American aviation and we earnestly hope that this will be the case.

Our Timid Diamond Heroes

THIS EVENING WORLD of New York recently printed an editorial, "Air Heroic Closed to Baseball Players," which is reproduced below. The retention of ball players to give up their lucrative jobs during the war will be recalled. Now that they are forbidden to do, we can only hope that their enthusiasm will be left to them.

The editorial or question reads as follows:

"The order of major league baseball managers forbidding their players to ride in airplanes is a new wrinkle in this age of probabilities. If this taboo is on the score of the supposed danger of flying it will be painful to players whose managers decidedly send them to the batter's box against the rule-hitting of such lesson experts as Walter Johnson and Eddie "Pete" Rose."

Through published statistics previous the relative safety of flying seem not yet to be convincing to more people. Those who are experienced in cross-country flying prefer the comparative hazards of the air to the dangers of the highway and the rail. Within recent memory baseball players have been killed by the pitched ball, in Saturday's weeks and in traps collisions.

The number of aviation and passengers who have lost lives in airships is small in proportion to the number of passengers flying and the number of miles flown. Models showing unusually accident reports are much more horrifying than transport, all not because as popular as it deserves to be in the country that can look to the Wright brothers until the law controls action of its dangers is dispelled.

Not many years hence beneficial results will travel from city to city by air, just as between men in Europe now are the time-saving and relatively safe means of transportation."

The 1924 Schneider Cup Race

THE F. A. A. at the start of an engine will be delighted to hear that the foreign entries—three British and two French—have been secured for the forthcoming Schneider Cup race, which will be held Oct. 24-25, 1924, at Bournemouth. These five entries together with the three ships which the Naval Bureau of Aeronautics has entered in the race use a flying wings for auxiliary power.

American flyers can have a particular reason for being interested in this race, as it will be the first time on the history of our engine, rotary four-cylinder machines fitted with American engines compete with our own products. Curtis D-2 engines will be used on the British entries, and perhaps on one of the British entries too, now that the Farley Company has acquired the British manufacturing rights of this engine.

Here we have but another indication of the important role American aircraft equipment is assuming in the world of international aeronautics.

Modern Aircraft Bombs and their Use

Prepared by Engineering Division, U. S. Army Air Service,
McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio

Success with aerial bombing does not always require 100 per cent direct hits but it does demand that average results be within limits of error which are well defined, according to the kind of objectives and type of bomb used in the attack. Successful bombing is a combination of good tactics, planned attack, instrument precision, and operating advantages which are inherent in the aircraft, its equipment, and its armament, and general knowledge on the airplane design.

What tactics are prescribed by the nature of the objective, type of bomb, relative offensive and defensive conditions,友 or enemies, their operational importance depends on the highest degree upon team work. The method of operating the bomb sight may influence tactics, while team work itself depends upon accurate familiarity of both pilot and bombardier with the use of that particular instrument, and in a matter of thousand practice.

Importance of Bomb Sights

Except for extremely low altitudes at which present aircrafts may effectively attain aerial bombs, by means of studied trajectories alone, and for comparatively large or long targets, such as a battlefield or a road, the bomb is powerless to get results at even moderate altitudes without a sighted instrument. The conventional bomb which was made with crude sights, or even in the early days of war, was just as effective because it was phenomenal, but the instrument that sighted the objective, with the sighting instrument and above a successful average, was most consistently proven to be a failure. A consideration of errors will make it quite evident that even at moderate altitudes a sighting instrument is essential to correct for the wide variation of factors which enter even beyond human ability to estimate or calculate under English conditions.

The use of spotting ships for correcting range is for the most difficult that from a fixed ground point cannot be used because the range is constantly changing, the alignment angle, moreover, changing, so that the spotting correction is not necessary; too long an approach may be required in a straight line; and finally the opportunity for using spotting ships is generally rare.

The instant purpose of the bomb sight is to indicate the instant when the bomb must be released, thus being but one instant possible for any given line of approach to an objective. The instrument should provide some method for increasing correction for the variable factors, and to calculate, or estimate, the range or sighting angle.

How a Bomb Drops

It is not uncommonly thought that a bomb, when released, falls vertically downward, and that the shift in bombing depends upon the point estimation of the vertical over the target.

The bomb must actually be dropped ahead of the target a distance which depends upon the combinations of resistance and energy. For instance, in the case of a bomb of short distance, actually amounting to from 500 ft. to no more than a mile, the error is very low speed airspeed at low altitude, the other for high altitudes and high speeds.

The bomb, upon release, responds to the force of gravity, which is strictly vertical, and we may consider vertical components of its velocity and distance. The actual path or trajectory is a curve, and it is not a straight line, but a horizontal curve. When the bomb is released it has a horizontal velocity, which is that of the airplane. Consequently the horizontal distance which the bomb will travel, while falling, is a factor of the airplane's ground speed at which it was released, and the time of fall which depends upon the altitude.

The bomb will not, in its true course travel forward at the airplane speed, because of retardation of air resistance.

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But underneath as it does not lose all of its initial forward impulse, even through a 10,000 ft. drop, it will be seen that an horizontal speed carries it along, the ahead of vertical under this position of release.

The error may be stated in another way, that, due to the nature of the curve, if it will not drop in full, it will keep up the horizontal distance so that of the airplane will fly behind, and strike the ground considerably to the rear of vertical under the airplane.

All trajectory calculations are made with reference to the vertical, but remember on the airplane does not constitute a stable base line which undergoes a 50 ft. factor, changing into an oblique line of the sighted instrument. The angle of the nose of the aircraft to the vertical, or the angle of the nose of the aircraft to the ground, is to two degrees pitching and rolling. These oscillations are due to varying forces of the inherent stability of the airplane, and can not be detected by the pilot nor corrected by him. Without stabilizations of the sighting instrument, the introduce errors of the order of 100 to 200 ft. in range and time.

Dropping Angle

Dropping angle, variously called "angle nose" and "sighting angle" is the angle ahead of vertical, at which the line of sight must be set so as to intercept the objective at the correct moment of release. This straight line of sight must intersect the ground where the bomb's actual curved trajectory, corrected for all variables, will also intersect the ground.

The dropping angle may vary for different combinations of all the variable factors, varying from 50 deg. for high speeds and low altitudes, to 5 deg. for low ground speed and high altitudes, and it may even be a negative angle.

It is obvious that provision for a view of the ground by the bombardier, through the fuselage to cover the sighting angle, is very important in airplane design, in fact, the armament section professionals in the Boardroom for Designers, that provision should be made for sighting the objective still further ahead, over the nose, the greater distance, to enable the bombardier to readily pick up the objective.

The horizontal distance on the ground of the intersection of the bomb's path ahead of a point which is vertically below the surface at the instant of release is known as the range. The bomb must be released at the range distance away from the objective.

Hence, may vary for the above-mentioned variables, such as, for example, 100 ft. to 2000 ft., or even a negative distance of a couple of thousand feet for an extreme case, in which the ground speed is about one-fifth of the air speed and at high altitudes.

Historical Development

From what has been said about the nature of the trajectory, it will be seen that a point on the ground can be determined where the bomb will fall after release of a bomb at a given altitude. The line of sight will be set accordingly, merely a constant angle. This in fact was the earliest form of bomb sight, along with the use of a line placed on the canopy of the fuselage, with a fixed angle of sight as correct, however, only for an altitude, ground speed and type of bomb combination, and the conditions of early bombing presented about the same considerations, such a fixed angle did provide rough guidance for the bombardier, but it was not very accurate, however, and any type of objective varied in speed, some adjustment had to be provided for the variable factors, and the angle was then spaced vertically according to altitude, and horizontally according to ground speed. The great difference in range between bombs of different types required little attention with studies of their trajectories to maintain the economy for adjustment of this factor.

The bomb will not, in its true course travel forward at the airplane speed, because of retardation of air resistance, and the angle of the bomb sight was found to be incorrect and these were revised and extended. In this sight the bottom face sight is spaced vertically below the top rear sight so that the angle of sight is constant, while the horizontal spacing of the face sight ahead of the rear sight is proportional to the true ground speed at the time of bombing.

The general difference between one bomb sight and another are:

(a) In methods of establishing the vertical line to which the sight angle must be referred.

(b) In provisions for approach when in line with the wind or the alignment offwind.

(c) In methods of determining actual ground speed.

One of the most common methods for determining ground speed is in time by which the passage of the airplane over a known ground distance, when the ground speed is such that the distance divided by the time, a fixed value, can be set up, in order to suffice so as to maintain with a known distance against the ground. With this system, calculation of the ground speed is still necessary, together with the reading of the angle.

In the C.P.S. timing scale case, an improvement in which the necessity for calculation was eliminated. With this device a horizontal scale of altitude is provided with a time graduation

scale on the English sight were found to be incorrect and these were revised and extended. In this sight the bottom face sight is spaced vertically below the top rear sight so that the angle of sight is constant, while the horizontal spacing of the face sight ahead of the rear sight is proportional to the true ground speed at the time of bombing.

The feature of this sight is the method by which wind speed may be determined, involving flying 90 deg. across wind, setting a drift line upon the resultant ground course, and then calculating the angle of the velocity.

With the standard sight is not stabilized, but is intended to be fixed on the outside of the fuselage, the armament section has designed and tested a stabilizer and pivot director adapted to this sight, so that the instrumental accuracy is increased, and also of becomes possible to use this sight as an offwind approach.

The "Negative Lens"

An called "negative lens" was used as a bomb sight by the British in an attempt to enable the pilot to observe the objective and release the bombs. This lens fixed on the nose, brings into view a ground area somewhat larger than can be seen through the nose cone free opening, but with some reduction in case of the wings. The lens is covered by three



Fig. 2. U. S. Army Air Service.

Various types of aircraft bombs experimented with at Altheim Proving Grounds

one added, to which the face sight is reset according to the number of seconds occupied as passing over the first setting. The setting of the face sight then gives the correct dropping angle. The first setting is to an altitude scale which is calibrated with any ground objective as far back to the vertical as possible, and the angle of sight is then set to 100 times the distance of the bomb from that altitude.

Successful Bomb Sights

One of the most successful bomb sights used during the war was the Mitchell, and an American modification of the Mitchell which was made by the A.E.F. called the T-3 A.L.4. This sight was the first to be used in the war, and it was the stop-watch method of measuring ground speed, and also the fact that the sight was stabilized as a pendulum with air dash pot damping. The objective to the stop-watch method of damping, which is liable to considerable personal error in use, has been eliminated in a spokesman type of sight developed by the armament section. The Mitchell sight had no provision for different types of bombs and the size has been provided to never again.

Another very ingenious principle was applied to the French 9th A.L. sight, comprising a very accurate method of using ground speed, requiring no calculation but associating the use of a special stepwise stop watch.

The 9th A.L. sight was very improved and applied to eliminate personal error, and to remove the objection to flying in a straight line for any excess length of time during approach, but the difficulty of obtaining such widths in this country during the war led to the adoption of the English. Marples method of obtaining ground speed by the simple process of setting the air speed and adding to it in subtracting from the wind. This sight is our present standard until newer forms are in production. The altitude

transverse item, one of which is used in conjunction with a single cross wire on the bottom of the fuselage, so as to constitute the sighting angle for one of three combinations of altitude and ground speed. The bottom wire was made adjustable to a scale by which the wind speed could be added to the altitude, from the normal speed, but because of this it may be necessary to make frequent fine adjustments to be adjusted to flight, the ground speed setting, therefore, has all the inconveniences of a weather program. This sight is not only very limited in vision, but it has been found by repeated attempts that it is impossible for a pilot to make the close observations which are necessary in the use of a stop-watch, because all of the effort is directed to the bombardier's selection speed, levels, and alignment, while the bombardier's attention must be diverted to the sighting process. Back a less, however, does have a useful application for research work on a sled.

The Avro 500 Mk. III, or Navy type of bomb sight, operates upon principles of the pendulum principle as the Mar. 1, with the addition of a different feature, which will be described later. The angle of sight is set to the right by compass while the line of sight is also carried as the drift bar and this approach may be considered offwind. This sight also constitutes a standard, available at small quantities with improved forms of sight and in production. This sight is very reliable, but with great personal substitution and an improved form of pilot director by the armament section, giving it much greater instrumental accuracy.

Errors in Bombing

The personal element enters to such an extent into the use of bomb sights, that the best instruments will give most unsatisfactory results without constant practice in team work.

Without means for accurately guiding the pilot in the ap-

plane, it is quite usual that the pilot may estimate the distance 100 ft. off. If the ground course is but 5 deg. off the target at instant of release, the lateral or bias error will be the tangent of 5 deg. times the range, and assuming an altitude of 1000 ft. and a ground speed of 300 ft. per second, the target will be missed by about 100 ft. Four adjustments in use are the following: (a) use of error of 100 ft. Another chief source of error is in bomb sight angles. At the altitude and ground speed above assumed, if the ground speed is set into the sightline 5 deg. high, the error in range will be about 145 ft.

With bomb sight angles which the speed indication is used to obtain ground speed, an addition is made to the wind, which is the ground indication. There results yet that even more as a ground speed factor, but with angles in which ground speed is directly determined as in testing methods, there are error in air speed indication is comparatively small, since it affects only the ground leg portion of the total range distance.

Altitude Errors

Again, supposing an altimeter reading of 1000 ft. is actually 400 ft. low, then if the altitude and ground speed above assumed the bombs will fall about 70 ft. short of the target. While the errors in altimeter indications are not necessarily as even 10 per cent wrong, the average errors in altitude indication is not so serious in bombing as many other errors.

Considering bombs which differ in terminal velocity between 600 ft. per second and 2000 ft. per second, then there is no adjustment in the bomb sight for this difference, but the trial angle is fixed for an average of say 800 ft. per second, then, with a bomb of 600 ft. per second terminal velocity, would fall about 50 ft. short, or at 25,000 ft. altitude would fall about 2000 ft. short, while a bomb of 1800 ft. per second terminal velocity would fall about 50 ft. over at 2000 ft. altitude, and about 400 ft. over at 30,000 ft. altitude. It will be noticed that the difference in range becomes much greater for bombs of low terminal velocity, except at very low altitude where the errors are relatively small.

If a bomb is set to fall straight on the line of sight, set for a definite range, the angle about of the vertical will be thrown off through whatever angle of oscillation the airplane may be in, at the instant of release. Assuming an altitude of 8000 ft. at a ground speed of 1000 ft. per second, if the the fuselage pitches 2 deg. at the instant of separation of the line of sight with the observer, the bomb will hit about 220 ft. short.

The fact that the bomb is released at 2 deg. pitch instead of horizontally, or that there is a resultant error in ground speed due to that pitch, are not of much consequence in comparison with the big error of sighting 2 deg. off. This makes very evident the need of stabilizing the sight.

Influence of Bomb on Bomb

A lateral banking of the airplane of some degrees will not affect the range, but if bold in that bank, may result in the observer's alignment of the course by a line offset error. The fact that airplane is banking at the instant of release will not introduce any appreciable error in launch of the bomb unless the angle of banking is so great that it will affect the lateral velocity of the bombs. The fact that an unbanked right turn, however, with the airplane, handicaps the following of the longitudinal direction line in a vertical plane and therefore makes lateral stabilizers highly desirable.

A new sight, known as type III, has been designed and constructed for the improvement of the present system. Enclosed in the sight is a gyroscope which, by the use of the synchronous principle (is provided with stabilizers) and an improved form of pilot director, which promises to be a great improvement over anything we now have or had during the war. This sight uses a very accurate and simple method of obtaining ground speed, with the source process requiring straight flight, has been reduced to a minimum under the most conditions of about 22 sec. This is less than half the time required by the Michelin sight. The sight is also very

accurate instrumentally, as correction has been provided for different types of bombs, and an offset correction provided for the effect of wind on an offload course. Towing may be done either on the objective itself or any other ground object at the observer's option.

While we have been obtaining excellent results with present stabilizers, we are continuing the research work started by the Ordnance Department on various forms of gyroscopic



Courtesy U. S. Naval Institute
Explosion of an aircraft bomb dropped by a naval flying boat

stabilizers, and have built a completely new system, which is instrumentally rather complicated but by which we expect extreme simplicity of operation.

Bomb Carrying and Releasing Devices

In order to drop bombs from airplanes or airships with any degree of accuracy and destruction, it is necessary to carry the bombs in a device that will hold the bombs in such a position that when dropped they will be pointed in exactly the direction that they are traveling at the instant of release. This position is known as parallel to the line of sight. The device to hold the bombs is now known as a "bomb rack." The racks which carry the racks in function as a metal frame as a part of the bomb load, may be in the form of a rectangular frame, or in the form of a triangular frame. Another plan of design operates the safety mechanism. The cables are housed inside a No. 102 Herkules case which is a flexible cord that may be easily installed.

Safety Device

The safety device consists of three steel balls in a metal housing which are held or rotated by a spring of 3 lb. force. The person who drops the bombs may pull the safety device out. The person who drops the bombs may pull the safety device out. The safety device is the type III bomb rack when the bombs are to be dropped "safe." When the bombs are to be dropped in the "armed" condition, a can of oil of the safety device is revolved through an angle of about 90 deg., which forces the steel balls against a fixed stop. This effectively prevents the safety wire from pulling out of the safety device, as the wire is passed from the base of the safety device and the bomb rack.

The bombs are divided into two general classes, depending upon the type of casing and for different purposes. They are known as fragmentation or demolition bombs. The fragmentation bombs now in use are the Mark II, III, IV and V, which are the same as the Mark II, except that the weight is about 25 lb.

The present demolition bombs are known as the 100 lb. Mark I, the 200 lb. Mark I, the 600 lb. Mark I and the 1100 lb. Mark II. These bombs are strengthened with cylindrical surfaces and are supported by two legs spaced 16 in. apart.

The legs are placed, one on either side of the center of gravity of the bomb. Since the same distance separates the two legs, the bombs are more or less interchangeable on the

different bomb racks. The degree of interchangeability depends upon the size and capacity of the bomb rack only.

Special and extra large demolition bombs have also been designed and used and racks built to accommodate them. The 1300 lb. armor-piercing bomb is made up of a 32 in. projectile. It is largely cylindrical in shape. This bomb also has legs spaced 16 in. apart and can be carried by the same racks as the standard fragmentation 1100 lb. bombs. The bomb was designed for use against battleships and steel fortifications.

Heavy Demolition Bombs

A 2000 lb. demolition bomb, cylindrical type, is now a standard bomb and was used in sinking the German battleship *Gneisenau*. It is carried either by means of bands which are to be released with the bombs or by means of legs spaced 16 in. apart, which is the standard spacing for the large cylindrical bombs.

An experimental 6000 lb. demolition bomb also has been developed but has not been adopted for standard use. It is cylindrical and similar in design to the 1100 lb. armor-piercing and the 1300 lb. demolition bomb. It is provided with two legs for emergency purposes, which are spaced 38 in. apart.

The fragmentation bombs are carried by means of the type III bomb rack. This rack carries the Mark XVI bomb rack which is designed to carry five fragmentation bombs, or two 100 lb. demolition bombs. It is also equally adapted for carrying three 50 lb. demolition bombs. These bombs are now obsolete as demolition bombs, but the cases are used for carrying secondary material, used for making smoke bombs, and for gas bombs. The rack is known as the "External type bomb rack." Bombs are carried inside the fuselage of an airplane or may be carried outside the ear of a dirigible balloon.

The All rack is used on all present airships, two-seaters, and on auxiliary equipment on other airships.

The 300 lb. Bomb Rack

The 300 lb. demolition bombs are carried by means of the type III bomb rack, which was formerly known as the Mark XVI bomb rack. The type III rack is being equipped with metallic support bases. This rack carries either two 200 lb. demolition bombs or two 300 lb. demolition bombs or one of each size. They are supported and released by means of a safety device housed inside a No. 102 Herkules case. When the bombs are to be dropped "safe," the safety device is revolved so the bombs stand out at an angle of about 45 deg.

This is caused by the bombs bearing against a pair of bomb-release brackets which prevent the bombs from swaying. The axis of the bombs point in the direction in which the airplane is flying.

The rack is an external type rack and may be attached either to the under side of the fuselage or lower wings of an airplane or to the under side of the car of a dirigible. A safety device is used to hold the bombs in the correct position. Another plan of design operates the safety mechanism. The cables are housed inside a No. 102 Herkules case which is a flexible cord that may be easily installed.

Safety Device

The safety device consists of three steel balls in a metal housing which are held or rotated by a spring of 3 lb. force. The person who drops the bombs may pull the safety device out. The safety device is the type III bomb rack when the bombs are to be dropped "safe." When the bombs are to be dropped in the "armed" condition, a can of oil of the safety device is revolved through an angle of about 90 deg., which forces the steel balls against a fixed stop. This effectively prevents the safety wire from pulling out of the safety device, as the wire is passed from the base of the safety device and the bomb rack.

When it is desired to carry 600 lb. or 1100 lb. demolition bombs, the type C3 bomb rack is used. This rack, which was known as the Mark XIII bomb rack, is a

centralized type bomb rack that carries only one bomb at a time. The bomb is also carried horizontally and installed so that its axis is parallel to the line of flight of the airship or dirigible. This rack carries either one 1100 lb. demolition bomb or one 1300 lb. armor-piercing bomb or one 2000 lb. demolition bomb. The bomb is suspended and released by means of a shackle similar in size to that used on the type III bomb rack, except that it is stronger to carry the heavier load.

Anti-Battleship Bombs

The 2000 lb. and 6000 lb. bombs are carried by a bomb rack called the type B12. This rack is somewhat similar to the type C3, except the shackle is much heavier and a safety mechanism is incorporated in the release. A movement of the release handle forward releases a bomb "armed" while a movement of the handle to the rear releases the bomb to drop "safe." The carrying handle for this shackle is about 30 in. long. The rack is also carried outside the ear of the fuselage of an airplane or may be carried outside the ear of a dirigible balloon. Another general type of bomb rack is the internal type. This type of rack is built into the fuselage of an airplane or car so that the bombs do not require any bomb resistance. Internal racks are now in use on the Martin B-26 and B-57 bombers and are now in use on the Martin MB-2 airplane. The rack now in use in the present Martin airplane is the type G1 or Mark XXI rack and carries twenty 100 lb. bombs, or six 200 lb. bombs.

The Martin bombers which are now under construction, will be equipped with the type G4 bomb racks. This bomb rack is an internal type designed to replace the type G1 or Mark XXI bomb rack except that the safety device is incorporated in the bomb shackle. Therefore, the safety wire for such bombs is attached to the shackle which carries the bomb. A special safety-coated mechanism is built as part of the rack to operate the safety lever on each bomb shackle. By this means all of the shakles are placed in either the "armed" or "safe" condition. Any number of bombs can be released or either the "safe" or "armed" condition by changing the position of the safety lever at the will of the operator at any time.

Dynamic Stability as Affected by the Longitudinal Moment of Inertia

By Edson G. Wilson

In a technical note (No. 115, October, 1922) issued by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Morris, Nelson and Carroll have reported experiments showing that a relatively large (55 per cent) increase in longitudinal moment of inertia can make a noticeable difference in the stability of a model airplane in longitudinal pitch. They point out that a model airplane with a large moment of inertia is more difficult to pitch up than one with a small moment of inertia. Another paper, "Applied Aerodynamics," No. 204, stated that an increase in longitudinal moment of inertia would decrease the stability. Neither do they make any theoretical forecast of the amount of decrease. Although it is difficult, as a result of the complexities of the theory of stability of the airplane, to make any accurate forecast, it may be worth while to attempt a discussion of the matter theoretically with reference to a single quantity, namely, the moment of inertia.

A copy of Report No. 112 may be obtained upon request from the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Washington, D. C.

Britain and Air Transport

The important role civil air transport is assuming in British commerce life is shown by the *Export World and Commerce* (London), a monthly journal devoted to the expansion of British trade, news, press in each issue on international air transport.

In this supplement civil air transport is discussed from the viewpoint of economics. The measure the government is taking to increase the Royal Air Force is also receiving attention.

Blazing the Air Mail Path in Alaska

Report to the Second Assistant Postmaster General on the First Trip of the Alaskan Air Mail Service

By PILOT C. B. EIELSON

The Air Mail Service recently initiated an experimental air mail route between Fairbanks and McGrath, Alaska, an air route distance of 200 miles, for the purpose of accelerating mail delivery. By dog teams—the only transportation which can be used in the winter months—the length of the route is 500 miles, and it takes on the average eighteen days to cover that distance.

On the Neenan-McGrath route the dog teams for years have made weekly trips, a team bearing each necessary article, teams, carrying 500 lb. of mail each way with 100 lb. additional in food, equipment, and feed for the hunting teams. The pay is \$1,022 a round trip, which consumes about thirty-five days.

The first Air Mail test flight was made Feb. 19, 1934, by Pilot C. B. Eielson with 160 lb. of mail. Leaving Fairbanks at 9:00 a.m. the plane arrived at McGrath 11:30 the same morning and began the return trip at 2:45 p.m. Due to a forced landing it did not reach Fairbanks until 6:40 p.m.

The second trip was made on March 1 with the temperature at 8 deg. below zero. The flying time, with 250 lb. of

Owing to delays in the construction of our hangar, caused by extreme cold weather, we were unable to move the Biplane into the building until Feb. 14. On Feb. 16, the snow was about two inches over the ground. The next morning I started on my first trip.

Our landing field, which is 1200 ft. long and 400 ft. wide, and surrounded by low scrubby trees, was covered with from two to three feet of snow. The snow up here is of a very light, dry, powdery variety. It did not pack well, as at the time in the States, because there is so little moisture as it falls on the ground. I had to dig a hole about a half yard into the snow, then making it impossible to take except by going along 1300 rpm. I find that the wide tires are more suitable for this country.

The thermometer registered 6 deg. below zero at the start of the first trip. There was no wind. The sky was about two-thirds overcast with clouds, which lay at an elevation of 4500 ft.

Equipment for Arctic Flying

I carried 160 lb. of mail, a full set of tools, a mountain sheep trapping bag, ten dog pieces, 8 gal. of (Mobile B), snow shoes, 1 gran. oil can, and some traps. My clothing consisted of two pairs heavy woolen hose, a pair of carbine socks, a pair of heavy mittens, a pair of heavy mittens over the heavy undershirt, a pair of thick leather, a heavy leather trapper's mitts, a leather skin cap, goggles, and over that a snow-visor around the pants, which had a hood on it with a wolfenstein skin around it. Wolfenstein skin is fine around the face because it is so soft. On my hands I wore a pair of light weight mittens and a heavy mittens. I had a heavy leather coat and a heavy cap over that. I had the exhaust heater started off. At five below zero I was too warm. I could feel perfectly whether an perfect comfort with this outfit and the engine heater. On my second trip I can not the carbine socks, the leather trappers, and the heavy fur mittens and was extremely cold.

My first trip to the Department that all mail planes be supplied with heavier skin parkas and large size snow-overs. I have worn the fur parka that was an ice outside and it in my opinion that they are not to be compared with the parkas. This is the consensus of opinion among the old timers here, who have tried everything to wear off the cold

mail, took 3 hr., 15 min. to McGrath and the return to Fairbanks was made with 150 lb. in 4 hr. 19 min. A considerable contrast to the eighteen days each way required for the dog teams.

On the dried up the flying time in McGrath was cut to 2 hr. 35 min. and on the return trip to 3 hr. 40 min.

So interesting was the report of Eielson's adventure that the Postmaster General wired to the Director, Cablegram and Telegrams, Cogswell, to copy him the info, wrote a personal letter to the Air Mail pilot congratulating him upon the successful completion of his flight. Accompanying this letter was one from Mr. New of similar purport.

"I congratulate you on the unquestioned success of your undertakings," the Postmaster wrote. "Your experience provides a unique and interesting chapter in the rapidly developing science of aerial navigation."

A striking narrative of these experienced flights is contained in a report by Pilot Eielson to Col. Paul Henderson, Second Assistant Postmaster General, in charge of Air Mail Service, which is reproduced below.—Editor.

The parkas are knee length, they are very light, they pull over the neck so no wind can blow in through the flaps.

The following are the advantages of the parkas: (1) Cost not forty dollars for a good one. (2) Light and roomy. (3) They are made of heavy material so they will not pull over the head and tied so that only the eyes are exposed. The fur around the head is wolfenstein so it does not frost. (4) Can sleep in and out of plane as well with ease on as off if you did not have it on. (5) In case of forced landing, pilot could walk in and out with it on as off. It is impossible to wear the parkas as it is too heavy for walking. (6) Greatest warmth for its weight.

The First Flight

The operations are strenuous because they are light, warm and comfortable. As many pairs of stockings as necessary can be put on. The rider can feel all the time that greater better control.

I took off the field on Feb. 21 of 8:45 a.m. The sky was dark the snow was cold I got up a little speed, then gradually



U. S. mail plane at Fairbanks, Alaska, after first landing there in darkness on return flight from McGrath, Feb. 21, 1934



The Air Mail in Alaska—Mail DH, fitted with skis, on the frozen surface of the Tanana River, Neenan, Alaska, March 12, 1934, during a flight from Fairbanks to McGrath

and got 1100 ft. before I left the snow. I turned the motor over for 10-12 min. and it would not run. I turned the motor from 1200 to 1300 on the prop. The motor never caused smoking or gasing. The tachometer did not work steadily, but the engine was perfect. My air speed indicator did not work at all and my compass was off about 40 deg. in some directions on account of magnetism in the iron mountains. I became somewhat confused. As I am not accustomed to the compass now without a gyro, I did not depend on my compass except to follow certain landmarks when by pointing the plane at landmarks which I know.

Following the Tanana River

After testing the motor and balance, I let my course. The next 50 miles followed the Tanana River, which is a fair river, and followed the river so well that I was in plane. At Neenan, a town of about 1000 Indians, took off and followed the river to the town of Neenan. I followed the river in a straight course in order to follow the flat country and the river the road houses, which are located on the road well in intervals of about 25 mi. After about an hour and a half I spotted Lake McNeilhouse on my right. It was then half past 11 a.m. and the temperature was 30 deg. Below zero. I could not believe that a load of 50 lb. off my aircraft after the state compass would last long on the flat land. I followed the river to the town of Neenan. I followed the river to the town of Neenan, where I saw a river entering the Tanana at the point where the Neenan River enters the Tanana at the town of Neenan. I struck for the staff, and everything was all right excepting that the town of Neenan was not in my plane. I knew I must have veered to the left so I veered up the Tanana to find Neenan. I followed it for about 15 miles and then turned right. By this time it was quite dark and I could not see the river. I could not believe that a load of 50 lb. off my aircraft after the state compass would last long on the flat land, and this was exactly as the course. I could not see the lights of Neenan so I left the river, going East. I thought I would get lost, but I followed the river to the town of Neenan and that I was following it back to the Neenan River and that I was following the river to the town of Neenan. The sky was entirely overcast—not a star shone.

Lost in the Darkness

I wandered about completely lost for as long as three hours. I knew that the river I had left was the Tanana. About this time I saw a light at 4:45 a.m. altitude and went down to it. It was a house which had been a trapper's cabin near the Chukchee River. I was too tired to go to the cabin, so I lay down in a nice place to sleep, but I knew I would wake up if I did, so I decided to look around some more. I went back to the big river I had left and when I was following it down I saw a fire on the distance. I left for it and it turned out to be my home field. There was a light in front of the house. I took a gun and a shotgun and went to it. I hit a bear in the shoulder and brought it down. I hit it in the head and it was dead. I took my revolver. The moon was all full and up in three days and the plane ready to go again.

The entire area had been wasting at the field for over a week. I had been at the air field 30 min. on the return trip. I landed at 5:00 p.m. I had been in the air 7 hr. and that day I had been about 100 miles farther than from Fairbanks to Siberia. Fairbanks to Point Barrow is 1000 miles to Siberia. This seems impossible in Alaska, for it takes about 10 days at this time of the year to go from here to Siberia by the fastest route—dog team.

The second trip was made March 1. Weather report from McGrath in morning said "Temperature nine below zero, clouds, clouds to 8000 ft. At Fairbanks the temperature was 4 hr. 29 min. Poor flying as return, due to bad wind. Left here at 8:15 a.m. and carried 200 lb. of mail, arrived

AIRPORTS AND AIRWAYS

Chicago News

By R. W. Schlesinger

The meteorological atmosphere about Chicago is showing signs of a remarkable improvement as the flying season approaches. Pilots, aircraft operators and owners, and, generally speaking, all those actively interested in aviation, are beginning to feel in full the sense of security, as they are finding out that it is to the advantage of all concerned to work with, rather than without, the other fellow. The writer has found that in practically all cases the men were to cooperate and to coordinate their efforts.

The pilots, operators and owners of aircraft have certain definite problems before them as which they are rapidly interested. The same applies to the Reserve Air Service, the National Guard, civilian members of the American Legion, members of the Aero Club, the Air Guard, the Model Airplane operators etc. But in the same problems do not always interest the different groups, it follows that each group tends to pull for its own interests. It is, then, each in seeking how best to handle these groups, that their efforts are directed.

At least of the two named groups, we have coordinating their activities. They are learning each other's problems and are making an honest effort to assist each other in their solution. This is a hopeful symptom and, without the belief that number in Chicago will make a greater progress than year that last.

Readers of these Chicago News are requested to send local news of interest by letter or phone to R. W. Schlesinger, 287 W. Ohio St., Chicago. Please telephone 2280.

Our very dear mutual friend Tom Yester, is as the hospital undergoing an operation, and so instead of being in full of his powers, had a cold form some of the boys were here and they would help him pass many a long hour. He is in the Hines Hospital, Springfield Park, Maywood. Those who don't know him have here a chance at getting acquainted—and they will never regret it.

Going to the man-made soft condition of its field the Hines Aerodrome Co is unable to do any aerial flying at this time. However they are striving this time to get the equipment in shape for the long races.

Construction has started on a new-place Hines completed job, somewhat on Standard lines, which will be entered in the Ohio Dayton race. The Hines Flyer, unknown to anyone, engaged a sport plane, which has also been entered in the Dayton-Dayton race, as well as the last place entry in the same race.

The Hines Flyer, which only took third place in the Dayton-Dayton race, will also participate this year, and the Company hopes will make a good showing, although the conditions of the race are somewhat shorter than they were last year.

An interesting experiment just completed on the Hines shape is the change of the intake valve action on an OS2 motor. The regular valve spring has been eliminated and in its place a pressure compensated valve is used. The pressure of the intake air, when the engine is running, has to overcome another, the wind load does not reduce the depression of the valve, but stops part way so as to increase the speed of the engine is increased, until at the greatest speed it barely touches the fast or depressed section of the valve. The valve action thus becomes singular, a greater speed than 1400 to 1500 rpm is impracticable. With the improved valve action it was found possible to increase the rpm's to 1650, so which speed the engine develops power.

The Hines Flying school is full during all the year round, but, as stated before, no school flying is being done for a week or two until the ground dries sufficiently to take off. In the

meantime, ground school work is progressing steadily. The school has at all times from ten to fifteen students, divided into day and night classes. The students are not only kept in the construction and repair of single and motor, but also the art of wood working and metal working machinery, the Hines shop being among the most complete in that respect in the country.

The Illinois Model Aero Club held another of its many winter meetings March 21, which are always of great benefit to the recuperators in the commendable work of model design and building. Two prizes were given to the members and judges on "How to Build Models" by Mr. Lomax and "Characteristics of Rubber Power" by Mr. Binkley. This model organization is most favored by other organizations at any of the big meets, as they "showed up" at St. Louis last year. They will bear watching at Dayton this year. These boys are willing to bid any other city in the country by furnishing them information on how to get started in this work which looks like a great future for them. Edward L. Lomax has been made Chairman of the Illinois Model Club. They put on one of their Club meets at Altona Flying Field March 23, in which several prizes were awarded in addition to ribbons to the winners of the various events.

Shorty says "All efforts to get news from Dave Behrens at Champaign Field have failed. That fellow is too busy counting for last year's earnings and scraping wants."

"Eric" Pritchard has been given by Shorty a week to try and get him to record how he has been affected to anyone who will satisfy Shorty as to how to get some sort of him back to "land."

The Mississippi Airlines Company's field at New Haven, Wisc., which is opened by Dan Kiser, is a very fine field and the place of operation seems to be a very logical one. The company speaks highly when in the management of the field, they have given up to the Wisconsin Air Mail Co for \$600 a year. They are now putting up 500 loads of crushed rock and concrete around the hangars.

House Gives Air Mail \$2,750,000

The House of Representatives on March 29 agreed to appropriate \$1,500,000 for operation of the New York-Baltimore Air Mail Service during the fiscal year beginning July 1. It also approves an additional appropriation of \$1,250,000 for operation of the Air Mail Service by night mail.

Previously the Senate had agreed to appropriate \$1,500,000 for continuance of the trans-continental service and a \$100,000 to take care of night operations.

The House, passing on the item as presented by the Senate, amends to the Postoffices-Treasury Appropriation bill, making the one item, which

was taken out by the Senate, to be restored.

The Senate bill will be \$645,000, the wing area 500 sq. ft., and the weight empty 1,275 lb.

National Balloon Race

The Contest Committee, N.A.A., has received notice entries for the National Balloon Race, to be held at San Antonio, April 23, next. The particulars of the entries are given in the table below.

Civil Service Examination

The accompanying sketch shows the new club house which the Aero Club of Massachusetts proposes to build at the Boston Airport as a memorial to the aviators killed in the great war. All plans and specifications are complete, and the necessary land has already been leased from the Commonwealth. The major portion of the cost will be borne by the

U. S. Civil Service Commission, to the pension of Junior Engineers (Aeronautics) will be held throughout the country on May 7. It is to 88 vacancies in various branches of the Government, and at an entrance salary of \$1,500 a year.

Applicants must be men graduated with a college degree in aeronautical engineering, or must be senior students in such courses and furnish within three months from the date of the examination proof of actual graduation. Applicants who have completed two years at an engineering course in a college of recognized standing, may substitute for each year lacking of the required college work, one year of experience in aeronautical engineering.

If the applicant has completed less than two years of engineering study as a result of recognized standing, he may substitute for each of the additional years of college work a year of engineering experience in aeronautical engineering. Each year of such experience must have been in strictly technical work, and the applicant must show advancement in accomplishment and content comparable to the progression of a complete college course.

The examination will consist of general physics and chemistry, with applied mathematics, practical questions on aeronautical engineering, and a writing an elevation, section, and perspective.

Full information and application blanks may be obtained from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., or the secretary of the board of the U. S. Civil Service examiners at the post office or vice-chancery in any city.

Standards and Standards

In our note at March 24, 1934, there were reproduced under the head "The Need of Federal Air Regulation" parts of a letter which called attention to the state in which some of the original, nonstandard Standard aeroplanes are operated in this country. The writer stated as particular, that with the exception of the B-17 Flying Fortress, the B-24 Flying Fortress, and the B-25 Mitchell, the B-10 Flying Fortress, which is often called the "thief of the hills," the safety factor (with a 1000 h.p. Hispano engine) is approximately of the order of three.

It appears that this view has been considerably minimized by some of our readers, one going so far as to assume that this faulty regulation still exists on the numerous imported and home-made Standard aeroplanes. It is not believed, however, that the writer is in error in his statement of the danger of these persons as noted in his writing that neither could be further from the truth, and that none of the Standards mentioned by reputable firms such as the Curtiss Aeroplane & Motor Co or the Lockheed-Standard Aeroplane Corp has any of the structural defects of the original Standard J1.

These and other responsible firms maintain a strict inspection service and detailed parts are promptly replaced before the machine leaves the shop. Any one who has made a visual comparison between the original Standard J1 and some of its modernized sisters, such as the Lockheed-Standard or the Curtiss C-8 Standard will realize what a world of difference there exists between these ships.



Sketch of club house which the Aero Club of Massachusetts proposes to build at Boston Airport as a memorial to aviators killed in the War of 1914-18

the club, which for some time past has been devoting the proceeds of its annual aviation ball for that purpose.

A building fund committee consisting of Doctor Adams, Chairman; Major Armenty, Charles H. Coffman, Attorney; Major Thomas J. Conroy, Lt. Col. E. J. Murphy, and Lt. Col. Alfred F. Thompson, has been formed for the purpose of creating public interest and support for the project, which has the hearty endorsement of Admiral L. R. E. Steigman, Commandant of the First Naval District; Maj. Gen. A. W. Brewster, Commanding the First Corps Area, and Maj. Gen. Clarence E. Edwards, (Retired) State Commander of the American Legion.

New Waco Passenger Carrier

The Advance Aircraft Co. of Troy, Ohio, manufacturers of the popular Waco three-seater with 90 hp Curtiss O-35 engine, have under construction a commercial cabin plane which will accommodate six persons in a cabin and a rear compartment which will accommodate two. The new plane will be the type lighter engine with the Aeromarine 23, wing chassis, which is giving a very good performance to the Waco chassis.

The engine will be 3845 h.p. the wing area 500 sq. ft.

and the weight empty 1,275 lb.

National Balloon Race

The Contest Committee, N.A.A., has received notice entries for the National Balloon Race, to be held at San Antonio, April 23, next. The particulars of the entries are given in the table below.

Entries in National Elimination Balloon Race

Entered	Date	Aide	Name	Size
H. H. Honeywell	H. E. Honeywell		The Cooperative Club of Kansas City, Mo.	75,000 cu. ft.
U. S. Air Service	Maj. Norman W. Peck, A.S.	14. Bobt. E. Bobbitt, A.S.	50,000 cu. ft.	
" "	Capt. Edward W. Hill, A.S.	14. Jan. F. Powell, A.S.	50,000 cu. ft.	
" "	Lt. Ashey C. McKinley, A.S.	14. Lawrence A. Lewson, A.S.	50,000 cu. ft.	
Aircraft Development Corp.	Herbert V. Thaden	S. A. E. Bessman	Detroit	50,000 cu. ft.
J. H. Farnham	B. H. Farnham		San Antonio	50,000 cu. ft.
Goodyear T. & R. Co.	W. T. Van Gosen	G. H. Wallin	Goodyear III	2,200 cu. ft.
				(77,000 cu. ft.)

Note.—The Air Service has designated Louis, Mar. Major, A.S., as alternate Pilot and Operations Officer.

THROUGH the entire history of aviation over a period of 20 years the Wright organization has maintained its high position.

Its leadership has been soundly built upon extensive research and intelligent engineering development, although its experience includes the manufacture of aeronautical equipment in extremely large quantities.

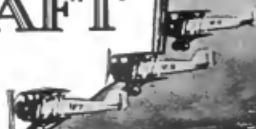
The Wright organization, ever mindful of its first achievement—the art of flying—continues to contribute each year its best ability and engineering experience to the advancement of flying.

WRIGHT AERONAUTICAL CORPORATION
PATERSON, N. J., U. S. A.

WRIGHT AIRCRAFT



"The Foundation
of Independent
Service"



IF 2



Navy ships equipped with Wright Air
Cooled Engines flying in formation over
San Diego, California